

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
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R 141633Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5006
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CSCE, SHUM, SOPN, PINS, CZ, UK
SUBJECT: "UNDER SURVEILLANCE" - BBC-TV ON CHARTER 77

1. BBC-TV DEVOTED 35 MINUTES OF "PANORAMA," ITS PRES-
TIGIOUS MONDAY NIGHT PUBLIC AFFAIRS OROGRAM, TO CHARTER
77 ON JUNE 13. TITLED "UNDER SURVEILLANCE," THE PROGRAM
INCLUDED FILMED INTERVIEWS WITH CHARTER 77 SIGNERS
GENERAL VILEM SACHER, IVAN KLIMA, DRAHUSE PROBOSTOVA
(AND HER DAUGHTER, JITKA), PAVEL KOHOUT, JIRI HAJEK,
FRANTISEK KRIEGEL, LUDVIK VACULIK, AND THE LATE JAN
PATOCKA.

2. PERHAOS THE MOST MOVING OF THE INTERVIEWS WAS THAT
WITH GENERAL SACHER. SOEAKING IN HESITANT ENGLISH, SACHER
EMOHAZIZED THAT HE CONSIDERED HIMSELF A COMMUNIST BUT SAW
NO REASON WHY HUMAN RIGHTS COULD NOT EXIST UNDER SOCIAL-
ISM. SACHER EXPRESSED HIS ADMIRATION FOR PRESIDENT
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CARTER AND URGED THAT THE WESTERN PRESS KEEO REPORTING
ON THE STRUGGLE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA. HE
ESTIMATED THAT 80 OER CENT OF THE POPULATION OF THE CSSR
SUPPORTED THE IDEALS OF CHARTER 77, WITH 10 OER CENT
BEING THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE KSC AND THE OTHER 10 PER CENT
REPRESENTING "FELLOW TRAVELERS." WHEN ASKED IF HE WAS
AFRAID OF WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN TO HIM AS A RESULT OF THE

INTERVIEW, SACHER SAID, "WHY SHOULD I BE AFRAID? EVERY-
THING I HAVE TOLD YOU IS THE TRUTH."

3. THE INTERVIEWS WERE BROKEN UP WITH CONTRAPUNTAL
EXCERPTS FROM DUSAN SPACIL'S STOCKHOLM ORESS CONFERENCE,
WHERE SPACIL ASSURED THE WORLD THAT HUMAN RIGHTS WERE
FULLY PROTECTED AND EXERCISED IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

4. THE TITLE, "UNDER SURVEILLANCE," WAS DRAWN FROM SOME
REMARKABLE FOOTAGE SHOWING JIRI HAJEK UNDER INTENSIVE,
HARASSING, MV SURVEILLANCE. ONE TRAGICALLY ABSURD
SEQUENCE CONSISTED OF A DISCREETLY FILMED SCENE OF AN
MV AGENT OBVIOUSLY PHOTOGRAPHING AN OPEN-AIR MEETING
BETWEEN JIRI HAJEK AND FRANTISEK KRIEDEL. COMMENTING ON
THIS TYPE OF HARASSMENT, KRIEDEL OBSERVED THAT THE REGIME
WAS TRYING TO DRIVE ITS "ENEMIES" TO NERVOUS BREAKDOWNS.

5. THE PROGRAM WAS ADMITTEDLY SCHEDULED WITH THE OPENING
OF THE BELGRADE PREPARATORY CONFERENCE IN MIND, AND WE
WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED IF IT WERE TO DRAW AN ANGRY
REACTION, IF NOT A COUNTERATTACK ALONG THE LINES OF THE
CZECHOSLOVAK TV PROGRAM ON FORMER BRITISH AMBASSADOR
SIR CECIL PARROTT (EXCERPTS OF WHICH APOEARED ON "UNDER
SURVEILLANCE"), FROM THE POWERS THAT BE ON HRADCANY.

BREWSTER

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 14-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition History: n/a
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